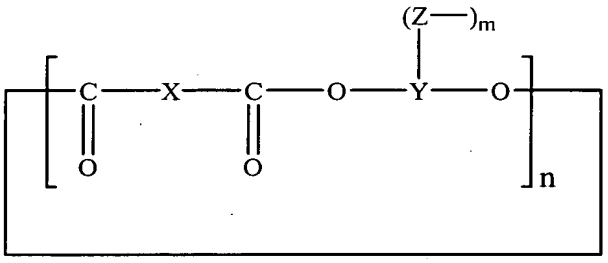
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

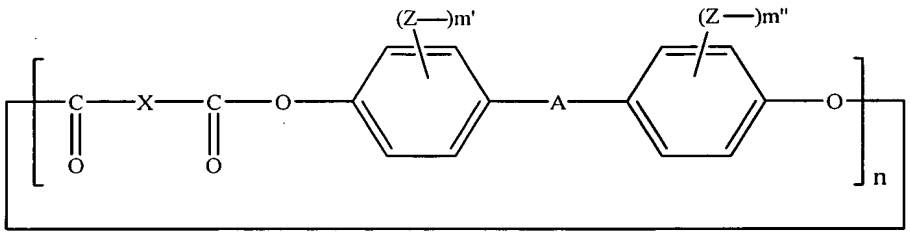
1. (Currently Amended) A polymer compound comprising a cyclic structure represented by the following general formula (1):



(1)

wherein X represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and halogenated arylene group; Y represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, a halogenated alkylene group and a halogenated arylene group; Z represents a connecting group derived from an alkylene group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an ester group, a urethane group, an amide group or an ether group, which connects the Y of the cyclic structure to a group represented by Y belonging to at least a second cyclic structure of general formula (1); m represents 0 or an integer of 1 or more; and n represents an integer of 2 or more, provided that m ~~may be the same or different~~is independently selected for each respective repeating ~~units~~ unit within the cyclic structure, and a total number of connecting groups represented by Z in the cyclic structure is 1 or more.

2. (Currently Amended) A polymer compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cyclic structure is represented by the following general formula (2):

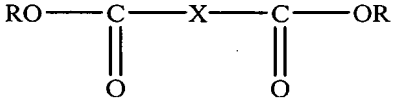


(2)

wherein X and A are the same as or different from each other and each represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and halogenated arylene group; Z represents a connecting group derived from an alkylene group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an ester group, a urethane group, an amide group or an ether group, which connects the Y of the cyclic structure to a group represented by Y belonging to at least a second cyclic structure of general formula (1); m′ and m″ each represents an integer of from 0 to 4; and n represents an integer of 2 or more, provided that m′ and m″ ~~may be the same or different~~are each independently selected for each respective repeating ~~units~~ unit within the cyclic structure, and a total number of connecting groups represented by Z in the cyclic structure is 1 or more.

3. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a polymer compound comprising the steps of:

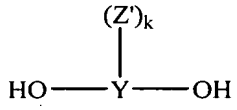
a first step for subjecting a raw material mixture to esterification or ester exchange to obtain a composite, the raw material mixture containing a compound represented by the following general formula (3):



(3)

wherein X represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and

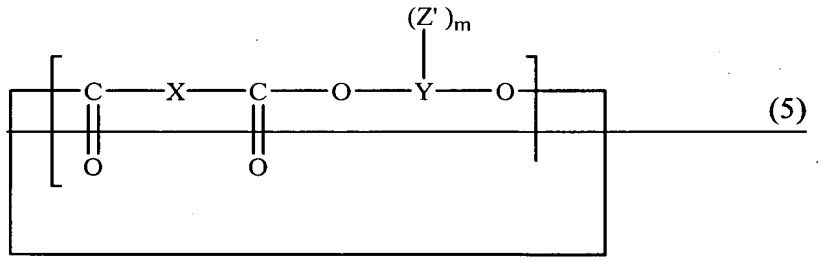
halogenated arylene group; and R represents a group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a hydrocarbon group, and a compound represented by the following general formula (4):



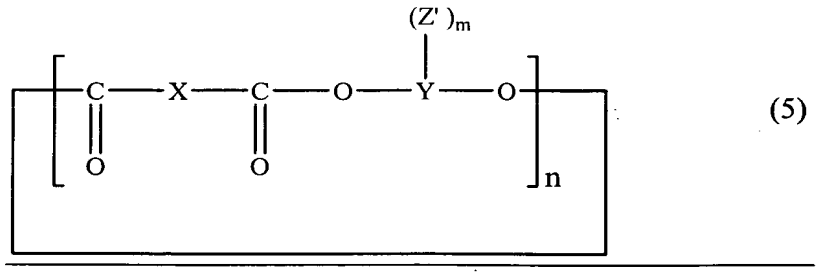
(4)

wherein Y represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and halogenated arylene group; Z' represents a reactive group capable of forming a group selected from the group consisting of an alkenyl group, an ester group, a urethane group, an amide group and an ether group; and k represents an integer of 1 or more,

a second step for subjecting the composite to a polycondensation reaction under reduced pressure to obtain a cyclic oligomer represented by the following general formula (5):



(5)

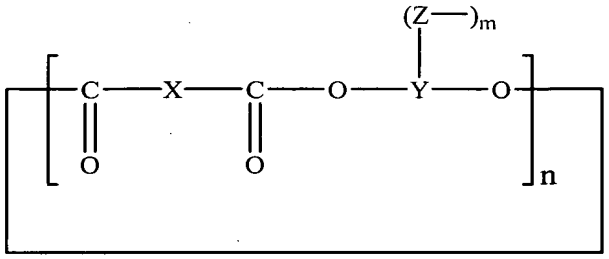


(5)

wherein X represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and halogenated arylene group; Y represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, a halogenated

alkylene group and a halogenated arylene group; Z' represents a reactive group capable of forming a group selected from the group consisting of an alkenyl group, an ester group, a urethane group, an amide group and an ether group; m represents 0 or an integer of 1 or more; and n represents an integer of 2 or more, provided that m ~~may be the same or different~~is independently selected for each respective repeating ~~units~~ unit within the cyclic structure, and a total number of reactive groups represented by Z' in the cyclic oligomer is 1 or more, and

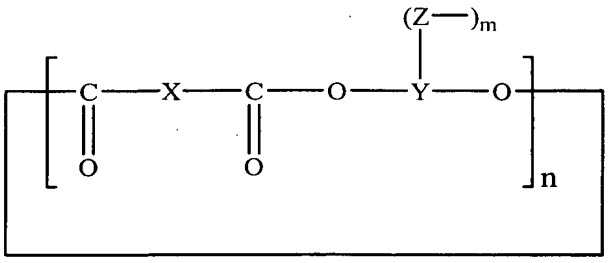
a third step for reacting the oligomer to obtain a polymer compound having a cyclic structure represented by the following general formula (1):



(1)

wherein X represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and halogenated arylene group; Y represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, a halogenated alkylene group and a halogenated arylene group; Z represents a connecting group derived from an alkylene group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an ester group, a urethane group, an amide group or an ether group, which connects the Y of the cyclic structure to a group represented by Y belonging to at least a second cyclic structure of general formula (1); m represents 0 or an integer of 1 or more; and n represents an integer of 2 or more, provided that m ~~may be the same or different~~is independently selected for each respective repeating ~~units~~ unit within the cyclic structure, and a total number of the connecting groups represented by Z in the cyclic structure is 1 or more.

4. (Currently Amended) A molded article comprising a polymer compound comprising a cyclic structure represented by the following general formula (1):



(1)

wherein X represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and halogenated arylene group; Y represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, a halogenated alkylene group and a halogenated arylene group; Z represents a connecting group derived from an alkylene group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an ester group, a urethane group, an amide group or an ether group, which connects the Y of the cyclic structure to a group represented by Y belonging to at least a second cyclic structure of general formula (1); m represents 0 or an integer of 1 or more; and n represents an integer of 2 or more, provided that m ~~may be the same or different in~~is independently selected for each respective repeating ~~units~~ unit within the cyclic structure, and a total number of connecting groups represented by Z in the cyclic structure is 1 or more.

5. (Original) A molded article as claimed in claim 4, wherein the molded article is produced by extrusion molding.

6. (Currently Amended) A molded article as claimed in claim 4, wherein the molded article is produced by coating molding.

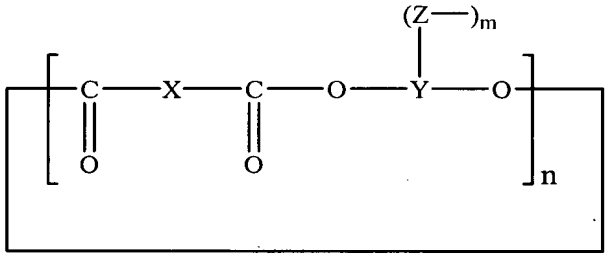
7. (Previously Presented) A molded article as claimed in claim 4, wherein the molded article further comprising a functional material.

8. (Original) A molded article as claimed in claim 7, wherein the functional material exhibits electroconductivity.

9. (Original) A molded article as claimed in claim 7, wherein the functional material exhibits wavelength-selective absorbance.

10. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a molded article comprising the steps of:

melting a polymer compound comprising a cyclic structure represented by the following general formula (1):



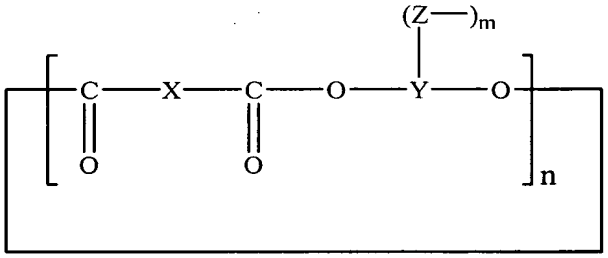
(1)

wherein X represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and halogenated arylene group; Y represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, a halogenated alkylene group and a halogenated arylene group; Z represents a connecting group derived from an alkylene group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an ester group, a urethane group, an amide group or an ether group, which connects the Y of the cyclic structure to a group represented by Y belonging to at least a second cyclic structure of general formula (1); m represents 0 or an integer of 1 or more; and n represents an integer of 2 or more, provided that m ~~may be the same or different~~is independently selected for each respective repeating ~~units~~ unit within the cyclic structure, and a total number of connecting groups represented by Z in the cyclic structure is 1 or more, and

subjecting the molten polymer compound to extrusion molding.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a molded article by coating molding, comprising the steps of:

coating onto a substrate a coating composition containing a polymer compound comprising a cyclic structure represented by the following general formula (1):



(1)

wherein X represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, halogenated alkylene group and halogenated arylene group; Y represents a group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylalkylene group, an alkylarylene group, a halogenated alkylene group and a halogenated arylene group; Z represents a connecting group derived from an alkylene group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an ester group, a urethane group, an amide group or an ether group, which connects the Y of the cyclic structure to a group represented by Y belonging to at least a second cyclic structure of general formula (1); m represents 0 or an integer of 1 or more; and n represents an integer of 2 or more, provided that m ~~may be the same or different~~is independently selected for each respective repeating ~~units~~ unit within the cyclic structure, and a total number of connecting groups represented by Z in the cyclic structure is 1 or more, and

drying the coating composition to form a molded article.

12. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a molded article as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coating composition further contains a functional material.

13. (Original) A process for producing a molded article as claimed in claim 12, wherein the functional material exhibits electroconductivity.

14. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a molded article as claimed in claim 12, wherein the functional material exhibits wavelength-selective absorbance.